PORTER, Professor John Bonsall. [Chairman, Applied Science, McGill U.] January-June 1919

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January 20th, 1919

Professor H. T. Porter,

McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Professor Porter:

I must apologize for having delayed so long in answering your letter in regard to the proposed Committee on Engineering standards. I have consulted Dean Ellis on the matter and he draws my attention to the fact that McGill has already four representatives on the Committee and that the Toronto representative, Professor Nelenan, is not an Engineer. He thinks that Professor Nelenan should remain on as the representative of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and that the University of Toronto should be given three representatives. If your Council is prepared to give this representation to the University, we suggest that you should choose from these four: Professor H. E. Angus of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Professor F. Gillespie of Civil Engineering, Professor Watson Bain of Chemical Engineering and Professor A. S. Robertson of Electrical Engineering.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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CAPT. R. J. DURLEY

HONORARY SECRETARY
JOHN BONSALL PORTER, D.Sc.
SECRETARY
FRASER S. KEITH
To whom all communications should be addressed.
Telephone Uptown 1232

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CANADIAN ENGINEERING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

176 MANSFIELD STREET

MONTREAL, Canada

21st January 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.
TORONTO. Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I have your letter of January 20th and note that Dean Ellis calls attention to the fact that McGill already has four representatives on the Committee whereas the one Toronto representative - Professor McLellan - is not an engineer. I am afraid I did not make the situation quite clear in my letter to you. Neither McGill nor Toronto has any members on the Committee at present, but if our proposals are accepted by the authorities at Ottawa, each University will hereafter have the power of nominating three persons, and will of course be free to select among its staff or outsiders as it sees fit.

The present Committee, which is merely an interim organization, was made by nominations from The Advisory Council, The British Institution of Civil Engineers, The Engineering Institute of Canada, The Canadian Mining Institute and The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and merely by chance four members of the present McGill staff were chosen and two from Toronto University. Furthermore it was quite by chance that the two Toronto members - Macallum and McLellan - happened to be pure scientists whereas three of the McGill men were engineers.

In arranging for a permanent Committee it is proposed to reduce the representation originally given to the Advisory Council and the Institution of Civil Engineers from five each to three each and to add three members from each of the three universities, and although it will take a year or more to replace the members first appointed by new nominees, I think you will find in the end that your representation on the Committee will be perfectly satisfactory. In the meanwhile I can assure you that when the original Committee was organized there was not the least intention on anybody's part to give McGill a preponerance; in fact University connection with the matter has been altogether a new idea, although personally I am very keen about it.

Sir Robert Falconer. 21st January 1919.

Referring to the names suggested by Dean Ellis, I need scarcely say that any, or all, of them would be acceptable to the Committee, and would add to its strength. I do not see how it can be arranged, however, to accept more than three as the direct nominees of Toronto University for the reasons above explained. If this arrangement will be acceptable to you I shall lay the matter before our Executive and advise you later as to which of your nominees will, in their opinion, prove most useful.

I remain
Yours very truly,

John Bracebridge Porter

Hon. Sec.

January 22nd, 1919

Professor J. S. Porter,

176 Mansfield Street,

Montreal.

Dear Dr. Porter:

Many thanks for your letter. I am sure that we as a University will be very glad to abide by your decision in choosing what names shall go on the new Council for Engineering Standards. You will be able to judge which of the men will suit you best and as to the number that you put on.

I must confess I had not your letter by me when I wrote. I had forwarded it to Dean Ellis and was writing from notes that he sent me.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Dean's Office:
FRANK D. ADAMS, PH.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.—DEAN.
J. C. McLEOD, M.E., D.Sc.—VICE-DEAN.
J. B. PORTER, PH.D., D.Sc., M.INST. C.E.—CHAIRMAN.

MONTREAL

30th January 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer, President,
University of Toronto,
TORONTO,
Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I am requested by the Executive of the CANADIAN ENGINEERING STANDARDS ASSOCIATION to thank you for your letter of 22nd January signifying your willingness to participate in the appointment of Members to the Association in the event of our application for a Charter being favourably dealt with by the Government. I may add that I think McGill University has taken similar action and that I am confident that the two great Universities will serve an important end by thus giving their support to the Organization.

I shall communicate with you further as soon as the matter takes definite shape. In the meanwhile I beg to apologise for having to use University letter paper; my supply of official C.E.S.A. stationery having for the moment been exhausted.

Yours very truly,

John Brassell Porter

Hon. Sec.
C. E. S. A.

March 24th, 1919.

Professor J. C. Porter,
McGill University,
Montreal.

My Dear Professor Porter:

Many thanks for your letter. I saw Mackay himself and possibly his scheme may carry with the Government, but in any case I am sending a letter direct to the Honourable J. A. Calder a copy of which I am herewith enclosing to you. Another copy is being sent to Mr. Nicholson. If McGill will back up this application I am sure the Government will give more attention to the matter.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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April 11th, 1919

Professor J. H. Foster,

Canadian Engineering Standards Association,

176 Mansfield Street, Montreal.

Dear Professor Foster:

I will bring your letter before the meeting of our Board of Governors a fortnight hence and ask that we nominate two members of the Staff of the University to be our representatives on the Canadian Engineering Standards Association. I will endeavour to see that such nominations are made as fall in with the purposes of the Association as you have outlined them.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 17th, 1919

Professor J. S. Porter,
McGill University.

Dear Professor Porter:

I shall be glad to name Mr. F. A. Russell of our Board of Governors as a member of the Committee on Canadian Engineering Standards, and I have no doubt the Board of Governors will accept my nomination provided Mr. Russell consents to act.

Yours sincerely,

President.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Dean's Office:
FRANK D. ADAMS, PH.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.—DEAN.
C. H. McLEOD, M.A.Sc., F.R.S.C.—VICE-DEAN.
J. B. PORTER, PH.D., D.Sc., M.INST. C.E.,—CHAIRMAN.

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MONTREAL June 12, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
The President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I was so unfortunate as to be out of town when your recent memorandum was delivered but I now write to say that I have read it carefully and consider it an admirable presentation of the case. In fact, I have only one criticism to offer and that is merely to call attention to the fact that in the Province of Quebec and presumably in some of the other provinces, the Provincial Department of Education has little or nothing to do with the Universities and that, therefore, your machinery as per Page 4 of your Memo would have to be modified. Perhaps I might also call attention to the fact that in your last paragraph you refer to the fact that the fees charged for extra classes now being carried on met only a "fraction" of the expenses. At McGill we are charging no fees whatsoever although we have over a hundred men attending matriculation and science classes alone. Perhaps we should have made such a charge, but we feel so strongly that we should do everything in our power to help the men out that we decided to make the courses absolutely free.

Very truly yours,

J. Bonsall Porter

Chairman of the Faculty.

June 14th, 1919

Professor J. H. Porter,

McGill University.

Dear Professor Porter:

Dr. Sutton had already referred to the fact that the Provincial Departments of Education of most of the Provinces have nothing to do with the Universities. I had therefore changed that reference in the memorandum as well as also any reference to the Department of Civil Re-establishment. The memorandum has already gone on to Sir Robert Borden, and I am glad that it on the whole conveys your meaning. I hope that it may be effective, though I have not heard from Sir Robert Borden.

Yours sincerely,

President.